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Statistical Abstract of the United States

1954

75th Anniversary Edition

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Prepared under the Direction
of Edwin D. Goldfield in the Office of the
Assistant Director for Statistical Standards



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Suggestions and comments should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON 25

June 14, 1954

Dr. Robert W. Burgess, Director
Bureau of the Census
Department of Commerce

My dear Dr. Burgess:

I wish to convey my sincerest congratulations to the Bureau of the Census on this occasion which marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Statistical Abstract of the United States.

The business and governmental affairs of a democratic people can be conducted successfully only on the basis of a wide distribution of reliable information. In our country this necessity has long been recognized both by well informed citizens and by the Federal Government itself and many statistical activities have been carried through successfully for long periods. The Statistical Abstract is an outstanding example of such an activity carried through by a government agency. For the past 75 years this publication has brought together and made generally available in one volume the statistics which are most useful in answering the questions of our fellow citizens and helping them to solve their problems.

It is often noted that Americans take particular satisfaction in observing, recording, and quoting the figures which describe and measure the physical and economic world we live in. The size of our country, the magnitude of its resources, the variety of its products, and the wide extent of its needs result inevitably in much reliance on recorded quantitative facts. We have learned well that we must keep informed as to the facts and make use of them as fundamental guides in all that we do.

In this environment the Statistical Abstract over the years has performed an inestimable service. Its growth in size since the 1878 edition from a modest 157 pages to more than 1,000 pages parallels a growth in value both as one of the tools of our development and as a mirror of the vitality and the progress of the people in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecilia Neely".

Secretary of Commerce

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States* has been published annually for the past 75 years, and its present content and form are the result of the work of many persons during that period. Revisions are made each year to adapt it to meet current needs and uses, and to bring the various statistical series up to date.

The *Statistical Abstract* is prepared in the office of Morris H. Hansen, Assistant Director for Statistical Standards. This issue was compiled by William Lerner under the direction of Edwin D. Goldfield, Acting Chief, Statistical Reports Section. Elma D. Beynon is editorial supervisor and Robert L. Rowland assisted in planning.

The cooperation of many persons acting in either their official positions or as individuals, who contributed to the preparation of this volume, is gratefully acknowledged. The list of tables by source (pp. XII-XV), as well as the source note following each table, indicates the various government and private agencies cooperating in furnishing information to the *Statistical Abstract*.

AUGUST 1954.

PREFACE

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, published annually since 1878, is the standard summary of statistics on the industrial, social, political, and economic organization of the United States. It includes a representative selection of data from most of the important statistical publications, both governmental and private. Emphasis is given primarily to national data. Data for regions and individual States are presented to a lesser extent. Data for cities or other small geographic units appear only in a small number of instances.

This book is designed to fulfill two functions: First, to serve as a convenient volume for statistical reference; and second, to serve as a guide to other statistical publications and sources. The source of each table presented is given at the foot of the table. The publications cited usually contain additional statistical detail relating to the subject matter shown, and a more complete discussion of relevant definitions and concepts than can be presented here. Also, they may supply data for smaller geographic units. Where contributing agencies are cited as sources, without mention of publications, more detailed information frequently is available from their unpublished tabulations and records.

1954 edition.—This edition is the seventy-fifth annual issue. The statistics shown are the latest which were available in the early part of the 1954 calendar year. The year, 1954, used to designate this edition, represents both the year during which compilation was made and the year of publication.

Each year several sections are subjected to intensive review. This review introduces new subject material of current interest and eliminates data that are less timely or appear in greater detail than seems currently warranted.

Among the new tables introduced in this issue are tables on the following subjects:

Projections of the population to 1975	<i>Circulation of daily and Sunday newspapers</i>
Population and characteristics, by race	New books published, by subject
Children born per 1,000 women	Postal revenues and expenditures, by class of mail
Aliens reporting, by nationality	Natural gas reserves
Illiterates, by selected characteristics	Automobile ownership and financing
Women in manufacturing industries	Motor vehicle travel mileage and speed
Korean battle casualties	Wage scales for able-bodied seamen
Social welfare expenditures	Freight carried on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
Characteristics of the aged	Farm-to-retail price spreads of farm food products
Characteristics of aged recipients of public assistance	Concentration of employment in manufacturing companies, by industry
Federal retirement systems	Shipments of steel products, by class
Community Chest campaigns	
Average family expenditures for selected cities	
National wealth estimates	
Political Party composition of Congress, by States	

There are, in addition, new tables on a number of other subjects too numerous to list.

Major omissions of tables occurred in the Manufactures section and the Distribution and Services section. The information shown in the previous edition for these sections from the 1947 Census of Manufactures and the 1948 Census of Business has been condensed and rearranged. The basic summaries from these censuses, however, have been retained and will continue to be presented until more recent data become available.

Supplements to the Abstract.—The *Statistical Abstract*, as an annual one-volume publication, is of necessity limited in amount of detail shown. Businessmen, teachers, librarians, public officials, professional workers, market researchers, and others often require data for individual cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and other small areas as well as for States. Economists, teachers, social scientists, historians, students, and others frequently need more historical information. To meet such requests for more detail, a series of supplements to the *Abstract* has been issued.

The *County and City Data Book, 1952*, a small-area supplement, issued in May 1953, brings together 128 items of information for each county, standard metropolitan area, and State; and 133 items for each of 484 cities with 25,000 or more inhabitants in 1950. Most of the statistics in this volume were obtained from the results of the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, Population, and Housing. Other subjects covered include 1950 data for births, deaths, and marriages; bank deposits and E Bond sales; city government finances and employment; city school systems; farm-operator family level-of-living index; and other items of social and economic importance. Final figures for a number of items from the 1948 Census of Business and the 1947 Census of Manufactures are also shown. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for \$4.25.

Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945, a historical supplement, was published in July 1949. This volume presents, in compact form, approximately 3,000 statistical time series (mostly on an annual basis) which cover various periods from 1789 to 1945. These time series reflect economic, social, and political aspects of the development of the Nation since the Federal Government was formally established. In the preparation of this supplement the Bureau of the Census had the cooperation of a special committee of the Social Science Research Council set up to advise the Director of the Census on a source book of historical statistics and of the Committee on Research in Economic History under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for \$3.25.

Continuation to 1952 of Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945, issued in May 1954, presents data for 1946 to 1952 for the current series shown in *Historical Statistics*, mentioned above. It also contains the latest revisions for many of the series in *Historical Statistics*. This publication is also on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 55 cents.

Responsibility.—As implied in the title, the contents of this volume are taken from a large number of sources, as indicated in the list of agencies furnishing material. (See pages XII-XV.) The Bureau of the Census cannot accept the responsibility for the accuracy or limitations of the data presented here, other than for those which it collects. However, the responsibility for selection of the material for the general user and for proper presentation rests with the Bureau, even though carried out with the cooperation of many technicians who have given generously of their time and knowledge in order to assist the Bureau's staff in making the presentation as meaningful and useful as possible.

The cooperation of users of this volume must also be acknowledged. Many persons have written offering suggestions for improving the presentation of the material. These letters have been most helpful and users are urged to continue to make their needs known. All suggestions will be carefully considered in planning future editions.

CONTENTS

Section	Page
TABLES BY SOURCE -----	XII
<i>Figure I. Map of the United States, Showing Census Divisions and Regions</i> -----	xvi
1. AREA AND POPULATION -----	1
<p>Area—Number and geographic distribution of inhabitants—Population estimates—Urban and rural population—Sex—Age—Race—Nativity and parentage—Citizenship—Mobility status—Fertility—Marital status—Households—Institutional population—Religious bodies.</p> <p><i>Figs. II-VII. Population: Change by States; Density by Counties; Urban and Rural Trends; Composition by Age and Sex; Marital Status; Center of Population.</i></p>	
2. VITAL STATISTICS, HEALTH, AND NUTRITION -----	61
<p>Registration area—Births—Completeness of birth registration—Reproduction rates—Life table values—Deaths—Marriage and divorce—Hospitals—Mental patients under institutional care—Morbidity—Physicians and dentists—Medical and dental schools—Nutrition—Federal food-distribution programs.</p> <p><i>Fig. VIII. Vital Statistics Rates.</i></p>	
3. IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION, AND NATURALIZATION -----	98
<p>Immigration—Immigration quotas—Emigration—Movement and characteristics of aliens—Displaced persons and war brides—Arrivals and departures, aliens and citizens—Naturalization.</p> <p><i>Figs. IX-X. Immigrants Admitted; Naturalization.</i></p>	
4. EDUCATION -----	114
<p>School enrollment—Years of school completed—Illiteracy—Elementary and secondary schools—Institutions of higher education—Special schools—Vocational schools—Federal aid—Land grant institutions.</p> <p><i>Fig. XI. Average Expenditure Per Pupil.</i></p>	
5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FEDERAL COURTS -----	146
<p>Crime rates—Arrests—Federal courts—Prisoners in State and Federal prisons—Federal prisoners released—Prisoners executed.</p> <p><i>Figs. XII-XIII. Federal Prisoners Received from Courts; Repeaters and First Offenders Among Federal Prisoners.</i></p>	
6. CLIMATE -----	162
<p>Elevation of stations—Temperature—Precipitation—Snowfall—Sunshine—Wind velocity—Relative humidity—Degree days.</p> <p><i>Fig. XIV. Average July Temperature.</i></p>	
7. PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM -----	177
<p>Lands in Federal ownership—Public and Indian land—Land grants—National Park System—Visitors to National Parks—Lands under jurisdiction of Bureau of Indian Affairs.</p> <p><i>Fig. XV. Acquisition of Territory of Continental United States.</i></p>	

Section	Page
8. LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND EARNINGS	188
Employment status—Industry—Farm employment and wage rates—Occupation—Output per man-hour—Production workers, average hours and earnings—Industrial injuries—Labor turnover—Labor-union membership—Work stoppages. <i>Figs. XVI-XVII. Change in Employment by Occupation Groups; Trends in the Labor Force.</i>	
9. MILITARY SERVICES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS	238
Army—Air Force—Navy—Marine Corps—Expenditures for national security—War casualties—Ships—Airplanes—Selective service—Veterans, expenditures for veterans, other veterans' benefits. <i>Fig. XVIII. Federal Expenditures for the National Security and Veterans.</i>	
10. SOCIAL INSURANCE AND WELFARE SERVICES	253
Public expenditures for social security and related purposes—Old-age and survivors insurance—Unemployment insurance—Placements by public employment offices—Railroad retirement—Railroad unemployment and sickness benefits—Federal retirement systems—Workmen's compensation payments—Public assistance—Maternal and child health and welfare services—Vocational rehabilitation—Red Cross—Community Chest. <i>Fig. XIX. Social Security Operations.</i>	
11. INCOME, EXPENDITURES, AND WEALTH	293
The Nation's income, expenditure, and savings—Gross national product or expenditure—National income—Income payments to individuals—Distribution of families and individuals by income levels—Family income, expenditures, and saving—National wealth. <i>Figs. XX-XXIII. Per Capita Income for States; Median Income of Men and Women; Median Income of Whites and Nonwhites; Gross National Product.</i>	
12. PRICES	323
Wholesale prices—Purchasing power of the dollar—Indexes of consumers' prices—Retail prices—Electric bills and gas bills of residential consumers—Unit values of commodities exported and imported. <i>Figs. XXIV-XXV. Wholesale Price and Consumer Price Indexes.</i>	
13. ELECTIONS	341
Electoral and popular vote for President—Apportionment of congressional representation—Votes for U. S. Senators and Representatives and Governors—Registered voters—Citizens of voting age—Congressional activity and party affiliations—Lobbies. <i>Figs. XXVI-XXVII. Participation in National Elections; Composition of Congress by Party.</i>	
14. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT	356
Receipts and expenditures—Appropriations—Internal revenue collections—Individual and corporation income tax returns—Public and private debt—Government securities—Assets and liabilities of Government corporations and credit agencies—Employees and payrolls. <i>Figs. XXVIII-XXX. Public and Private Debt; Federal Government Receipts; Federal Government Expenditures.</i>	

Section

Page

<p>15. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT-----</p> <p>Governmental units—Aid from Federal Government—Government revenue, expenditure, and debt—Public employment and payrolls—Retirement systems—State government finances—City government.</p> <p><i>Figs. XXXI-XXXIV. Revenue, by Source; Expenditures; Employees; Payrolls.</i></p>	<p>408</p>
<p>16. BANKING AND FINANCE-----</p> <p>Currency and gold—Bank clearings—Banks; principal assets, liabilities, and other information for all banks, Federal Reserve banks, National banks, mutual savings banks—Savings—Liquid assets—Bank suspensions—Savings and loan associations—Government credit agencies—Farm credit—Consumer credit—Credit unions—Money rates—Margin requirements—Commodity and stock exchanges—Securities markets—Share ownership—Insurance.</p> <p><i>Figs. XXXV-XXXVII. Bank Deposits and Currency Outside Banks; Bank Assets; Stock Prices.</i></p>	<p>439</p>
<p>17. BUSINESS ENTERPRISE-----</p> <p>Business population and turnover—Corporate assets and liabilities—Corporation income, profits, dividends, and taxes—Expenditures for advertising—Income of unincorporated enterprise—Sources and uses of corporate funds—Business expenditures for new plant and equipment—Gross private domestic investment—Research and development expenditures—Business sales and inventories—Industrial and commercial failures—Patents.</p> <p><i>Fig. XXXVIII. New Plant and Equipment Expenditures.</i></p>	<p>499</p>
<p>18. COMMUNICATIONS-----</p> <p>Telephone systems—Telegraph systems—Radio and television networks and broadcast stations—Newspapers, periodicals and books—Registration of copyrights—Postal service.</p>	<p>522</p>
<p>19. POWER-----</p> <p>Supply of energy—Electric energy; capacity of generating plants and production—Financial and operating statistics of electric utility companies—Rural electrification—Gas utility industry—Natural gas reserves—Water power.</p> <p><i>Fig. XXXIX. Capacity of Electric Generating Plants.</i></p>	<p>540</p>
<p>20. ROADS AND MOTOR VEHICLES-----</p> <p>Rural roads—State highway systems—Public roads finances—Federal highway projects—Motor vehicle sales—Motor fuel consumption—State motor vehicle registrations and revenues—Automobile ownership and financing—Motor vehicle travel and speed—Motor vehicle accident fatalities.</p> <p><i>Fig. XL. Speed of Motor Vehicles.</i></p>	<p>553</p>
<p>21. TRANSPORTATION, AIR AND LAND-----</p> <p>Steam railways: Mileage; equipment; capitalization, investment, income, dividends, revenue, expenses; receiverships; freight and passenger service; employees; accidents—Express companies—Motorbus lines—Trolley-bus and street-car lines—Motor carriers of property and passengers—Civil aeronautics—Airports.</p> <p><i>Fig. XLI. Revenue Freight Originated.</i></p>	<p>567</p>

Section	Page
22. WATERWAYS, WATER TRAFFIC, AND SHIPPING	593
Water-borne commerce, foreign and domestic—Receipts and payments for international transportation—Ocean ports—Great Lakes ports—Rivers, canals, and connecting channels—Panama Canal traffic—Net tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in foreign trade—Merchant marine—Shipbuilding.	
23. IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE, AND SOIL CONSERVATION	616
Irrigation enterprises—Drainage on farms—Irrigation of agricultural lands—Drainage enterprises—Federal reclamation projects—Soil conservation.	
24. AGRICULTURE—GENERAL STATISTICS	631
Balance sheet of agriculture—National farm product—Number and acreage of farms—Land utilization—Value of farm property—Color and tenure of farm operators—Farm mortgage status and indebtedness—Indexes of farm prices—Farm income and expenditures—Farm-to-retail price spread—Farm labor—Farm facilities, electricity, etc.—Fertilizer consumption—Farmers' marketing and purchasing associations—Commodity Credit Corporation inventories and acquisitions. <i>Figs. XLII-XLIV. Farm Income; Prices Received and Paid by Farmers; Farm Assets.</i>	
25. AGRICULTURE—PRODUCTION AND RELATED SUBJECTS	666
Indexes of volume of farm production—Farm labor, land, and livestock productivity—Agricultural products exported and imported—Acreage, production, and value of crops—Average prices of crops and livestock—Animal and vegetable fats and oils—Domestic animals and poultry on farms—Animal products—Stockyard receipts and shipments—Margarine—Cold storage holdings—Wool.	
26. FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS	715
Commercial forest land—Stand and growth of saw timber—Annual drain—National forests—Forest tree distribution program—Forest fires—Lumber and lumber products.	
27. FISHERIES	732
Quantity and value of catch—Canned and frozen fishery products—Exports and imports of fishery products—Fish propagation.	
28. MINING AND MINERAL PRODUCTS	741
Mineral production—Prices—Consumption—Indexes of physical volume—Imports and exports—Employees—Injuries—Fuels—Other nonmetals—Metals. <i>Fig. XLV. Value of Mineral Production.</i>	
29. CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING	772
Expenditures for private and public construction—Construction and building costs—Construction contracts—Wholesale price indexes of building materials—Public housing—Characteristics and occupants of dwelling units—Facilities and equipment—Rents and values—Nonfarm properties—Occupied farm dwelling units. <i>Fig. XLVI. New Construction Activity.</i>	

Section	Page
30. MANUFACTURES	806
<p>Manufacturing establishments—Wage earners and production— Indexes of industrial production—Concentration of large companies— Fuels and electric energy consumed—Expenditures for plant and equipment—Inventories—Production and related information of selected products and groups of products—Sales and exports of home appliances—Motion-picture industry.</p> <p><i>Fig. XLVII. Industrial Production Indexes.</i></p>	
31. DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICES (INCLUDING ADVERTISING) ..	859
<p>Retail trade—Chain stores and mail-order houses—Department stores—Consumers' cooperatives—Wholesale trade—Service establish- ments—Places of amusement—Hotels—Advertising.</p> <p><i>Fig. XLVIII. Department Store Sales and Stocks.</i></p>	
32. FOREIGN COMMERCE (INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AC- COUNTS AND AID)	892
<p>International accounts—Foreign investments—Foreign assistance— Foreign trade: Raw materials; merchandise, gold and silver; trade balances; trade by economic classes and commodity groups; trade by country of destination and origin—Duties collected.</p> <p><i>Fig. XLIX. Foreign Trade by Economic Classes.</i></p>	
33. TERRITORIES, POSSESSIONS, AND OTHER AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES	937
<p>Area—Number and characteristics of inhabitants—Births and deaths—Housing—Education—Agriculture—Mineral production —Manufactures—Imports and exports—Shipments to the United States.</p>	
34. COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS	953
<p>Population and area—Vital statistics—Food supply—Economic in- dexes—Geographical product by industrial origin—Agriculture— Energy—Manufacturing—Foreign trade—Mineral products—Trans- portation—Communications—Education and health—Membership contributions to United Nations—Foreign exchange rates.</p>	
APPENDIX I	977
<p>Historical Appendix: Index to tables in which <i>Historical Statistics</i> series appears.</p>	
APPENDIX II	979
<p>Weights and measures.</p>	
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES OF STATISTICAL DATA	981
INDEX	1017

TABLES BY SOURCE

Table numbers followed by "co-op." indicate that the statistics were compiled in cooperation with another agency; those followed by "part" indicate that statistics from another source appear in the same table.

Government Agencies

<p>Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts: 173-179</p> <p>Agriculture:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agricultural Marketing Service: 8 (co-op.), 102, 104-106, 231-233, 742 (part), 758-764, 767, 781 (part), 783, 791, 793 (part), 794-801, 803, 804 (part), 807-817, 818 (part), 819, 820, 824 (part), 826 (part), 827-831, 835, 837, 838, 840, 841-842 (part), 870</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agricultural Research Service: 103, 202, 518, 519, 741, 742 (part), 744, 747, 757, 770, 781 (part), 782</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Agricultural Economics: 755-756 (co-op.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Commodity Exchange Authority: 538</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Commodity Stabilization Service: 774, 775,</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Farmer Cooperative Service: 771-773</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Farmers Home Administration: 524</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Foreign Agricultural Service: 784-786, 802</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Forest Service: 844-849, 851-858, 863 (co-op.), 867 (co-op.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rural Electrification Administration: 626</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Soil Conservation Service: 738-740</p> <p>American National Red Cross: 323</p> <p>Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System: 338-341, 358, 423, 429, 474, 475, 478, 480, 486-491, 493, 502, 503, 525, 526, 528-530, 532 (part), 540, 571, 572, 648, 888, 944, 972, 975, 1042, 1043, 1087, 1134</p> <p>Civil Aeronautics Board: 686-688 (co-op.), 690</p> <p>Civil Service Commission: 307, 308, 430, 432-441</p>	<p>Commerce:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of the Census: 292 (co-op.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agriculture: 727-733, 745, 746, 748-754, 755- 756 (co-op.) 765, 766, 768, 776-780, 789, 790, 818 (part), 824 (part), 825, 826 (part), 832-834, 839, 1112-1114</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Business: 579 (co-op.), 1038-1041 (co-op.), 1044-1050, 1053-1062</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Census of Electrical Industries: 620</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Foreign Trade: 378, 379, 697-699, 713-716, 787, 788, 793 (part), 821 (part), 822, 842 (part), 889, 926, 1015 (part), 1019 (part), 1021, 1022, 1031, 1080, 1082-1086, 1088, 1089, 1091-1101, 1103, 1118-1122</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Governments: 383, 444, 446-455, 457-473</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Industry: 603, 689 (co-op.), 691 (co-op.), 792, 804 (part), 805, 806, 823, 836, 843, 859-861 (co-op.), 862, 863 (co-op.), 864-866, 868, 970, 971, 973, 974, 976-984, 992-1001, 1006, 1008- 1012, 1018, 1024-1030, 1033- 1037, 1116, 1117</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Population and Housing: 1-7, 8 (co-op.), 9-54, 67, 126-139, 216-223, 230, 234-242, 287, 346, 347, 349-357, 381, 389, 951-969, 1105-1108, 1110</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Foreign Commerce: 1090</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Public Roads: 249, 633-642, 644 (part), 645-647, 649-651</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Business and Defense Services Admin- istration: 821 (part), 859-861 (co-op.), 934, 989, 1004</p>
--	--

Commerce—Continued

Civil Aeronautics Administration:
686-689 (co-op.), 691 (co-op.), 692

Maritime Administration:
695, 696, 717

Office of Business Economics:
327-337, 348, 364, 422, 532 (part),
534 (part), 542, 560-562, 568-570,
573, 575 (co-op.), 576, 579 (co-op.),
580, 694, 743, 869, 1038-1041
(co-op.), 1051, 1066, 1069-1075

Patent Office:
586-588

Weather Bureau:
189-201

Congress:
Clerk of House:
380, 382, 384-387, 392 (part), 393
(part)

Joint Committee on Printing:
390, 391

Library of Congress:
392 (part), 606

Senate Library:
393 (part)

Defense:
258, 261-263, 577, 578 (co-op.)

Air Force:
266

Army:
693, 700-705, 710, 711

Navy:
264, 265

Executive Office of the President:
309, 310, 443

Bureau of the Budget:
259, 260, 397-402, 445, 941

Council of Economic Advisers:
246, 326, 342

Farm Credit Administration:
520-523

Federal Communications Commission:
591-594, 596-601

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation:
504-508

Federal Power Commission:
375, 376, 616-619, 622-624, 632

Foreign Operations Administration:
1076-1079

Health, Education, and Welfare:
Office of Education:
140-168, 1111

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation:
321, 322

Health, Education, and Welfare—Con.

Public Health Service:
57-66, 68-70, 72 (part), 73-89, 92-101,
652, 653, 1109

Social Security Administration:
279-286, 288-291, 292 (co-op.), 293-
296, 311-320, 527

Housing and Home Finance Agency:
Home Loan Bank Board:
500, 509-513, 515-517

Public Housing Administration:
948-950

Interior:
203 (part)

Alaska Railroad:
677

Bureau of Indian Affairs:
215

Bureau of Land Management:
203 (part), 204-212

Bureau of Mines:
615, 883, 884 (part), 885-887, 890-
894, 896-900, 902-920, 922, 924,
925, 927-933, 1007, 1115

Bureau of Reclamation:
734-737

Fish and Wildlife Service:
841 (part), 871-882

National Park Service:
213, 214

Interstate Commerce Commission:
654-670, 672-676, 678, 682-685, 901

Justice:
Bureau of Prisons:
180-188

Federal Bureau of Investigation:
169-172

Immigration and Naturalization Serv-
ice:
107-125

Labor:
Bureau of Employees' Compensation:
442

Bureau of Employment Security:
297-303

Bureau of Labor Statistics:
224-229, 243-245, 247, 248, 250-257,
344, 345, 361-363, 367, 368, 370-374,
377, 431, 456, 578 (co-op.), 602, 691
(co-op.), 719, 884 (part), 895, 936-
940, 947, 1023, 1052

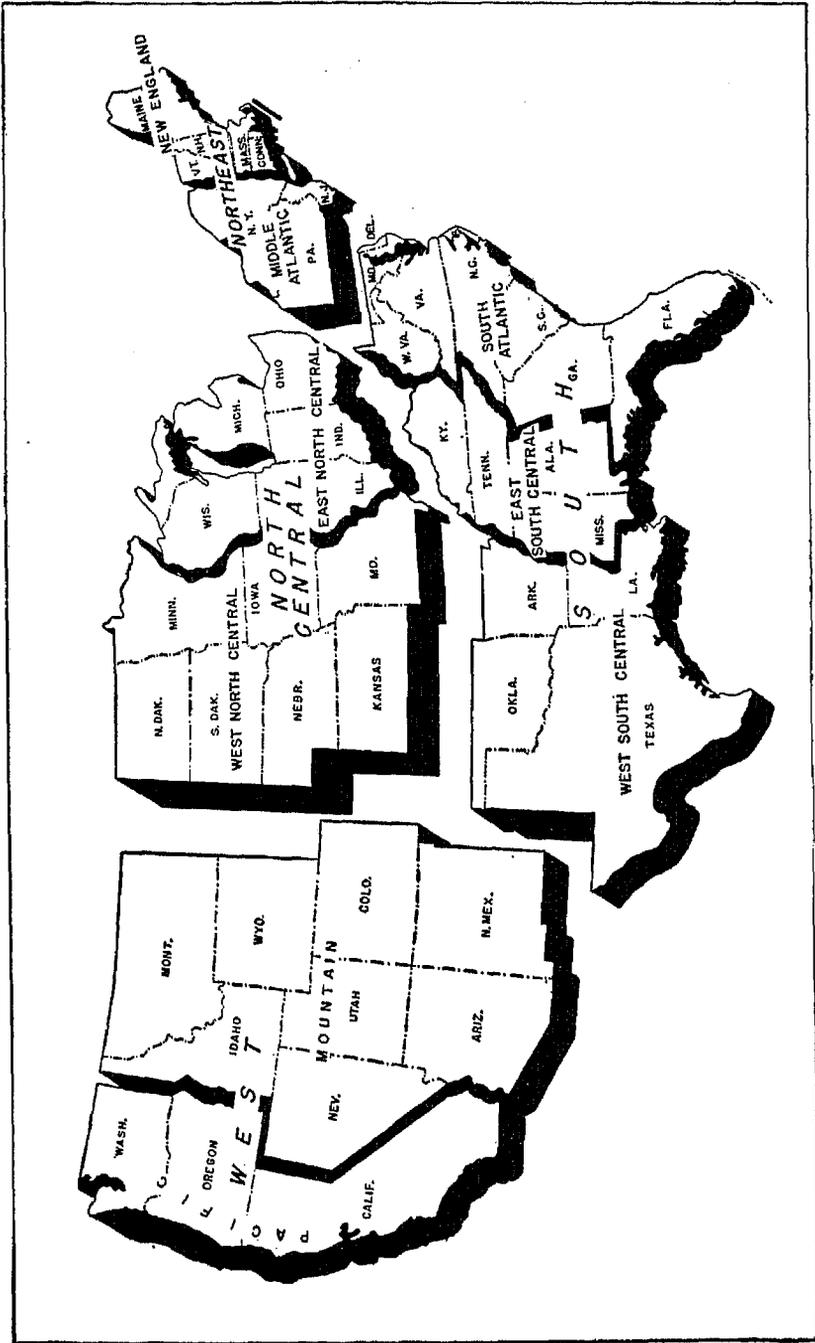
National Forest Reservation Commission:
850

New York State, Department of Public
Works:
712

Panama Canal Company: 706-709	R. R. Bowker Co.: 605
Post Office Department: 499, 607-614	Brookings Institution: 545-549
President's Materials Policy Commission: 1081	Bureau of Advertising of American News- paper Publishers Association: 1065
Railroad Retirement Board: 304-306	Bus Transportation: 680, 681
Reconstruction Finance Corporation: 498	Commercial and Financial Chronicle: 479 (part), 537, 543
Securities and Exchange Commission: 501, 531, 536, 539, 541, 544, 564, 575 (co-op.)	Community Chests and Councils of America, Inc. 324, 325
Selective Service System: 267, 268	Congressional Quarterly News Features: 394
State (Bureau of United Nations Affairs): 1133	Council of State Governments: 388
Tariff Commission: 1005	F. W. Dodge Corporation: 942, 943
Treasury: 395, 396, 421, 424-428, 476, 477	Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.: 581-585
Bureau of Customs: 720-724, 1102, 1104	Edison Electric Institute: 621, 625
Bureau of the Mint: 481, 482, 921, 923	Editor and Publisher: 604
Comptroller of the Currency: 483-485, 492, 494-497	Electrical Merchandising: 1032
Internal Revenue Service: 403-420, 563, 565-567, 574, 986-988, 990, 991	Engineering and Mining Journal: 884 (part)
Veterans' Administration: 269-278	Engineering News Record: 935, 945, 946
Nongovernment Agencies	Federal Reserve Bank of New York: 366
American Bureau of Shipping: 718	R. W. Goldsmith: 359, 360
American Gas Association: 627-631	The Iron Age: 884 (part)
American Iron and Steel Institute: 1013, 1014, 1015 (part), 1016, 1017, 1019 (part), 1020	Lloyd's Register of Shipping: 725, 726
American Medical Association: 90, 91	Los Angeles Clearing House: 479 (part)
American Telephone and Telegraph Co.: 589, 590	Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.: 71, 72 (part)
American Transit Association: 679	Moody's Investors' Service: 535
American Wood Preservers' Association: 867 (co-op.)	National Association of Hosiery Manu- facturers: 1002
Association of American Railroads: 671	National Board of Fire Underwriters: 556, 557
Automobile Manufacturers' Association: 643, 644 (part)	National Bureau of Economic Research: 343, 365, 534 (part)

National Cannery Association: 985	Spectator: 550-555, 558, 559
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America: 55, 56	Tanners' Council of America: 1003
National Fertilizer Association: 769	Tide Publishing Co.: 1064 (part)
National Industrial Conference Board: 369	United States Savings and Loan League: 514
New York Stock Exchange: 533	Western Union Telegraph Co.: 595
Printers' Ink Publications: 1063, 1064 (part)	International
Publishers' Information Bureau, Inc.: 1067, 1068	United Nations (Statistical Office): 1123-1132

FIG. I.—MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, SHOWING CENSUS DIVISIONS AND REGIONS



Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.